

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A foundation for a construction (8) with at least one pile-like device that is anchored in or on the ground (M) and comprises an elongate pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51), wherein the pile-like device also has at least one reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) that is constructed and disposed such that, between the reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) and the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51), a gap is formed, and wherein said gap can be at least partially filled with at least one free-flowing filling material (6, 10a, 10b, 30a, 30b).
2. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) is constructed as an inner tube around which the reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) is disposed.
3. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) is constructed as an inner tube and the reinforcement element is constructed as an outer tube, said inner tube being disposed in the outer tube such that the gap which substantially surrounds the inner tube is formed between the inner tube and the outer tube.

4. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foundation comprises one single pile-like device which stands substantially in an extension of a vertical axis of the construction.

5. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foundation comprises more than two pile-like devices.

6. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a proportion of the filling material (10a, 30a)-comprises a bulk material which is not damaging to the environment.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the region of the gap, the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) and the reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52)-have means for increasing transfer of shear between the elements and the filling material.

9. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 8, wherein, when the elements are constructed as tubes, means for increasing transfer of shear (9) are disposed on an inner face of an outer tube and on an outer face of an inner tube.

10. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 8, wherein the means for increasing transfer of shear comprise annular accumulations of material applied to the tubes.

11. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means for increasing the transfer of shear comprise at least three fins (61) aligned parallel to a longitudinal axis of the pile-like device and connected to one of the tubes.

12. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fins (62) ensure centering of the inner and outer tubes.

13. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least three spacers are disposed in the gap between the elements by way of connecting means.

14. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein, between the pile-like device and the construction, a junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43) is disposed which connects them to one another.

15. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 14, wherein the junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43) includes a screw flange for connection to the construction.

16. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 14, wherein the junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43) is connected to the pile-like device via a concrete bond.

17. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 14, wherein a part-region of the junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43) is constructed for arrangement in the gap between the elements.

18. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 17, wherein the junction piece is equipped with means for increasing the transfer of shear between the junction piece and the filling material.

19. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the construction is an offshore construction.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for introducing a pile-like device having a pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) into the ground as a foundation of a construction (8), comprising the following method steps:

- introducing the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) into the ground,
- disposing over or in the pile-like device a junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43), said junction piece serving to connect the pile-like device to the construction (8),
- connecting the junction piece to the pile-like device,

wherein:

- before or after the introduction of the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) into the ground, introducing a reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) into the

ground, the reinforcement element being constructed and disposed relative to the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) such that an increase in a strength of the pile-like device is achieved, and

- filling, at least partially, gaps between the junction piece and the pile-like device with a filling material.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in the claim 20, wherein the reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) is constructed and disposed relative to the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51) such that a gap is produced therebetween, said gap being at least partially filled with at least one filling material in an additional step.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in the claim 21, wherein the additional step is carried out between the arrangement of the junction piece (3, 23, 33, 43).

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of the two elements is introduced into the ground by means of a ramming method and/or drilling method.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said method is used in an offshore construction and the pile-like device is introduced into a seabed.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of dismantling a foundation for a construction (8) with at least one pile-like device that is anchored in or on the ground (M) and comprises an elongate pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51), wherein the pile-like device also has at least one reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) that is constructed and disposed such that, between the reinforcement element (2, 22, 32, 42, 52) and the pile element (1, 21, 31, 41, 51), a gap is formed, and wherein said gap can be at least partially filled with at least one free-flowing filling material (6, 10a, 10b, 30a, 30b) wherein the pile element is constructed as an inner tube and the reinforcement element is constructed as an outer tube and wherein, after removal of the supported construction, comprising the steps of:

- detaching the outer tube in a region of a level of a seabed,
- withdrawing the outer tube so that the filling material escapes downwards onto the seabed,
- detaching the inner tube in the region of the level of the seabed and then withdrawing the inner tube.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a junction piece between the foundation and the construction is dismantled in an intermediate step performed between detaching the outer tube and withdrawing the outer tube.

28. (Cancelled)